

# BOURNEMOUTH BID FOR JOHN DELANEY

**JOHN DELANEY**, Wycombe Wanderers' centre half and skipper, could be joining Third Division club, Bournemouth. John travels down to the South coast tomorrow (Saturday) and will make up his mind after looking over the club.

Bournemouth became interested in Delaney after their 2-1 friendly defeat at Loakes Park a week ago and contacted him the weekend after the game. He was offered the chance to go on the club's tour to Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti but decided against it as he is already booked for Wycombe's tour of Yugoslavia.

Bournemouth manager John Bond offered John a two-year contract with a possibility of a third year.

## THIRD OFFER

It is the centre half's third offer from a professional club—in the past he has turned down Reading, Southend and Plymouth. He told me the reasons for not turning pro in the past were financial but the Bournemouth offer was exceptional.

John also felt that after his stay with Bournemouth, the new F.A. ruling naming all amateurs as players, would allow him to return to Isthmian League football whereas in the past he would have had to stay in Combination or Southern League soccer.

Although 30, Delaney thought he had something to offer the club. He felt his football at Wycombe would prove more en-

joyable in comparison but added that the rewards in division three were considerable.

John will make up his mind on whether to move on after a four-year stay with Wycombe when he meets John Bond on Saturday.

## SLOUGH OFFERS

One of Delaney's old clubs Slough Town have recently made offers to both Brian Lee, Wycombe's manager, and John Reardon, his assistant. Both have been approached for the manager's job but Mr. Lee definitely will not be going to the club.

Rebels boss Tommy Lawrence who took them to the Amateur Cup Final this year and who has given them two of their most successful years ever, quit the club recently and is expected to return to former pastures at Enfield.

The Premier Midweek Floodlight League saga, may not be sorted out until next season, Wanderers secretary Bert Crump announced this week.

Wycombe have been waiting



**JOHN DELANEY**  
... moving on?

since they beat Horsham 3-0 on April 17 to find out their opponents in the final. But despite the fact that the Athenian League sides in section A of the competition have only 30-odd matches in a season as compared with 42 in the Isthmian, they still could not fulfill their Midweek fixtures in time.

The long-awaited Leytonstone v. Barnet match was played last week and ended in a 1-1 draw. This made Dagenham section winners but they still have to play Hayes and then Leyton before they meet Wanderers.

These matches seem a long way off for both Dagenham and Leyton are involved in other competitions, even at this late stage of the season. Leyton have the second leg of the East Anglian Cup final to play, while the "Daggers" are involved in the Londay Charity Cup.

## TWO DATES

Having contacted the league, Mr. Crump was given two dates early next season for the P.M.F.L. final — August 11 or the following Tuesday.

But there is mixed opinion at Wycombe as to whether they ought to play the final at all. Mr. Crump would like to play the match but manager Brian Lee feels Wanderers have fulfilled all their P.M.F.L. fixtures and the momentum would be lost if the match was played next term.

Apart from that, the chances are that both sides would have different teams.

Mr. Lee pointed out that poor organisation by the league was to blame. A classic case arises in one postponed game between Slough and Maidenhead. The fixture was postponed on February 26 and not played until a fortnight ago.

It is not the first time fixture congestion has affected the Midweek League. In 1969/70 when Wycombe won the competition beating Leatherhead, Walton and Hersham had a backlog of matches and were unable to fulfill all their P.M.F.L. games. Wanderers were made champions and Walton section winners — although the two teams never actually met.

As Loates Park is now being re-seeded there is no chance whatsoever of playing the final this season. Anyway, the Blues go on tour to Yugoslavia on the 25th of this month.

The Wycombe committee will meet on Monday to determine whether they will play the final next season and continue in the competition.